GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2560
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2002
INLAND WATER TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the composition and functions of the Inland Water Transport Development Council;

(b) the recommendations made by the Council so far; and

(c) the details of recommendations implemented till date?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR)

(a) The composition and functions of Inland Water Transport Development Council are as under:-

Composition

An Inland Water Transport Council for development of Inland Water Transport(IWT) under the chairmanship of Minister of Shipping wherein Ministers Incharge of Inland Water Transport of 15 States (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Goa, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharastra, Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Chattisgarh) are, the members, was set up on 14.5.2001.

Functions

The functions as per the terms of reference are as follows:-

i) To monitor the status/progress of overall development of Waterways and improvement in the share of IWT in cargo and passenger involvement.
ii) To assess the future, coordinated development of waterways in the country.
iii) To review the policy framework and recommend changes/modifications.
iv) To examine requirement of funds for IWT development and recommend facilitative steps.
v) To recommend measures for steady development of IWT as an integrated component of multimodal transport.
vi) Any other issue relating to development of IWT, which is of common interest for the Centre and the States.

(b) Recommendations made by the Council in its first meetings are:

- Setting up of IWT Directorate/Divisions by each of the State Governments for focussed development of IWT Programmes,for better coordination among various agencies and for implementing regulations relating to IWT.

- Preparation of status paper by each State on their Inland Waterways, evolving strategy for their development and linkage with National Waterways, where these exist and drawing up a comprehensive plan.

- Declaration of new national waterways as maybe feasible with a view to extending the coverage of IWT in the country and to avail of the advantage of such waterways.

- Provision of all necessary facilities in the existing 3 waterways within 10th Plan period i.e. dependable fairway, terminals, reliable and full time navigation together with fixed and regular cargo service schedule; the justification of these projects not to be determined by the rate of return during the 10th Plan but by the need for creating necessary infrastructure as developmental activity.

- States to earmark a fixed percentage of their budget for road and tourism sectors for accelerated IWT development.

- States to empower Panchayts to undertake various supporting activities such as desilting, construction of approach roads, jetties, watch and ward activities for development and maintenance of the waterways for generation of economic activities and employment.

- The states should also dovetail approved development programmes to take care of some of the local requirement of IWT.

- Development of tourism related activities including water cruises around and between places of heritage, historical, cultural and religious importance.

In its Second Meeting held on 18.10.2002 the Council was informed by the States about the plan of action they propose during the year for development of waterway in addition to taking stock of action taken to develop national waterways.

(c) The Central Govt. has changed the pattern ofCentrally Sponsored Scheme for IWT to 100% Grant Assistance for the North-Eastern Sates including Sikkim, and 90% Grant Assistance for other States.For better coordination between States and the IWAI regarding development of National Waterways, Coordination Committees/Task Force have been constituted in Kerala, Assam, U.P, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. Government of Uttar Pradesh has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a firm to start river cruise service in and around Varanasi on National Waterway No.1.